

ART 31 AMEND

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15 We claim:-

1. A process for the preparation of polyurethane foams having improved long-term stability by reacting

20 a) polyisocyanates with

b) compounds having at least two hydrogen atoms reactive with isocyanate groups, in the presence of inhibitors in an amount of from 0.1 to 20% by weight, based on the weight of the polyurethane,

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wherein the inhibitors are embedded in a substance which is inert under the conditions of the polyurethane preparation.

30 2. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the inhibitors are embedded in a wax.

3. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the inert substances have a melting point such that they melt during the reaction which results in the polyurethane.

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4. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the inert substances have a heat of fusion of from 50 to 250 joules/gram.

40 5. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the melting point of the inert substances is from 20 to 150°C.

6. A process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the wax contains one or more polar groups.

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7. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the inhibitors are selected from the group consisting of α,β -unsaturated compounds, carboxylic acids, carboxylic acid derivatives, ketones or aldehydes, lactones, lactams and/or cyclic ethers, esters, sulfonic acids, cyclic sulfonic esters and/or sulfones, salts of metals of subgroups I, II and/or VIII and organic cyclic compounds, inorganic or organic acids and acid derivatives which can liberate acids in a hydrolysis process.
- 10 8. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the encapsulated inhibitors are present in particulate form.
9. A process as claimed in claim 8, wherein the particles have a median particle diameter of from 20 to 800 μm .
- 15 10. A polyurethane which can be prepared by a process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 9.

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Preparation of polyurethane foams having improved long-term stability

5 Abstract

Polyurethane foams having improved long-term stability are prepared by reacting

10 a) polyisocyanates with

b) compounds having at least two hydrogen atoms reactive with isocyanate groups, in the presence of inhibitors,

15 by a process in which the inhibitors are encapsulated in a substance which is inert under the conditions of the polyurethane preparation, in particular wax.

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